

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/79

TAGS: ECON ETRD, NATO

SUBJ: NATO AND NORTH ATLANTIC ECONOMIC RELATIONS

POLICY

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH FROM AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD

REF: A) USNATO 4897; B) STATE 205147

SUMMARY: I AM CALLING YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO AN OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER U.S. INTEREST BY UTILIZING NATO FOR MORE EXTENSIVE CONSIDERATION OF ECONOMIC ISSUES. AS A STEP IN THIS DIRECTION, I RECOMMEND WE SUPPORT A CURRENT PROPOSAL BY THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (REF. A) THAT NATO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN APPRAISING ECONOMIC MATTERS CONCERNING THE ALLIES' ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER. END SUMMARY.

1. AS SECRETARY KISSINGER EMPHASIZED IN HIS "YEAR OF EUROPE" SPEECH, "THE POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND ECONOMIC ISSUES IN ATLANTIC RELATIONS ARE LINKED BY REALITY, NOT BY OUR CHOICE. . . ." OUR MEMBERSHIP NATO, THE INSTITUTION WHERE WE ARE CLEARLY RECOGNIZED AS THE LEADER OF US-EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP, CAN BE USEFUL IN HELPING ESTABLISH THIS LINKAGE. AS AN INSTITUTION WHERE WE HAVE A PRE-EMINENT VOICE BECAUSE OF THE MAGNITUDE OF OUR MILITARY CONTRIBUTION, IT CAN PROVIDE A PRODUCTIVE
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CHANNEL FOR CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION ON ECONOMIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL AND SECURITY MATTERS. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS ON THE

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND WE CAN SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE WITHOUT SEEMING TO TAKE THE LEADING ROLE. WHILE NATO WILL PROBABLY NEVER BECOME THE PRIMARY BASIS FOR A TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, MORE SHOULD AND CAN BE DONE TO REVITALIZE ARTICLE 2 OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY, WHICH STATES EXPLICITLY: "THE PARTIES . . . WILL SEEK TO ELIMINATE CONFLICT IN THEIR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES AND WILL ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN ANY OR ALL OF THEM."

3. IN THE PAST, THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF NATO HAS BEEN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY LIMITED TO ASSESSING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE. REPORTS ON SUCH SUBJECTS BY THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ARE CONSIDERED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL. WHILE THESE STUDIES ARE STILL USEFUL AND RELEVANT, I AM CONVINCED THAT NATO SHOULD ENGAGE IN A WIDER RANGE OF ECONOMIC SUBJECTS THAT IT NOW DOES. THE ALLIES SHOULD BE LOOKING AS ALLIES AT SOME OF THE OTHER SPECIFIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THEM.

4. I REALIZE THAT OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE DEALT MULTILATERALLY WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, PRINCIPALLY IMF, GATT, AND OECD, AND WE WOULD NOT WANT TO DUPLICATE WORK DONE ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, NATO DOES OFFER A FORUM WHERE THE ALLIES CAN SPEAK CONFIDENTIALLY AND WITHOUT COMMITMENT; AND DUPLICATION CAN BE AVOIDED BY DRAWING AS APPROPRIATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY DEAL WITH CERTAIN SPECIFIC TOPICS. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO ASSURE THAT THE ALLIES LOOK AT WESTERN AS WELL AS EASTERN ECONOMIC SUBJECTS FROM THEIR PARTICULAR VIEWPOINT AS ALLIES.

5. REF. A. TRANSMITTED A NOTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT PROPOSING SEVERAL SUCH TOPICS IT BELIEVES APPROPRIATE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND THE COUNCIL. THE DEPARTMENT'S INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL (REF. B) WAS DEVELOPED WITHOUT THE BENEFIT

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OF THE FOREGOING RATIONALE AND MY VIEW OF THE DESIRABILITY OF TRANSFORMING THE ECONOMIC ARM OF NATO INTO A USEFUL FORUM FOR LOOKING AT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS COMMON TO MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR ASSURING THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS LOOKED AT FROM THE BROADER VIEWPOINT OF AN ALLIANCE FOCUS ON SELECTED ECONOMIC MATTERS. RUMSFELD

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